

‘R’ is for ‘Recycle

Early Learning Traveling Trunk

Suggested Grades: Pre-K through Kindergarten

This Traveling Trunk, available from the Waukesha County Division of Solid Waste and Recycling, is available for a free 2-week loan period. Each lesson includes some “Together Time” for a group activity and discussion as well as “Individual Action” for students to reinforce some concepts individually or in small groups. Also included are materials and classroom décor. For a complete listing of resources, please visit our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling and to schedule items please call 896-8300.

Lesson One: Litterbugs (15 minutes)

This lesson explores the difference between litter and trash. It includes a story and follow-up discussions and activities.

Lesson Two: Introducing Recycling (30 minutes)

This lesson introduces the concept of recycling through a story. Students then create a sort of household trash to see what they could reduce or reuse.

Lesson Three: Land-Fill-Ups (30 minutes)

This lesson shows students where “away” is when they throw their trash “away”. It also provides students several options for creating model landfills, one of which is edible! It is a great way to show students where their trash goes if it is not recycled.

Lesson Four: The Recycle Cycle (15 minutes)

This lesson introduces recycling using clay.

Lesson Five: What goes in the Recycle Cycle? (20 minutes)

This lesson expands the concepts of recycling and shows students what can be recycled in Waukesha County using a puppet skit. Students then make a recycling station for the classroom.

Lesson Six: All Natural (10 minutes)

This lesson introduces the concepts of natural resources. It shows students what resources we are saving by recycling and also shows the final products that recyclables are made into.

Lesson Seven: The Three R’s (40 minutes)

This lesson shows students how to reduce and reuse items. There is an individual art project that gets students creatively thinking about how to reuse items and an alphabet activity. This lesson could easily be shortened to fit into tighter time constraints.

Lesson Eight: Tour the MRF (20 minutes)

This lesson shows students what occurs at the Materials Recycling Facility through a story as well as a chance to model the MRF through a simulation.

Lesson Nine: Cleaning Chemicals – How to Stay Safe (20 minutes)

This lesson introduces Household Hazardous Waste and shows some of the destructive effects of not being careful with these materials. It also provides alternatives to cleaners that the students can safely make themselves to practice liquid measuring.

Lesson Ten: A Trash Bash – Celebrating Accomplishments (varies)

This lesson allows students to celebrate the concepts of reuse and recycling through the creation of games and musical instruments.